



Dereham Town Council

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

Signed on behalf of:

Dereham Town Council

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Stuart Green".

Name: Stuart Green

Position: Mayor

Date: 13th July 2021,



The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom

Her Majesty's Government

— and —

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Section 1: Principles of the Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We, **Dereham Town Council**, will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen*
- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 We recognise the value of serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families; and will aim to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by seeking to:

- appoint an **Armed Forces Champion** to promote support for the Armed Forces community;
- promote the fact that we are an **Armed Forces-friendly Council**, to our members and wider public; celebrating the work of the Armed Forces and encouraging positive interaction between them and members of the public; maintaining our War Memorial.
- Support and Organise Remembrance Sunday Parades.
- Support and help organise Battle of Britain Day
- Upkeep of war graves, with support of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- Support the Local Royal British Legion branch.
- support the employment of military **Veterans**; recognising that they are a valued part of our community; facilitating and encouraging their participation in civic and community events; providing a link to the Veterans Gateway on our website.
- support the employment of **Service Spouses & Partners**: when recruiting, we understand that Service Spouses & Partners may have a broken work history, this is taken into consideration when selecting for interview.
- encourage support for the **Reserves Forces**; and support the employment of Reservists;
- support and promote support for **Armed Forces Events** including Armed Forces Day, Reserves the Poppy Appeal Day and Wings Week.
- The Town Council is always open to suggestions and ideas from any source as to how it can support Veterans and their families.

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.

